

CLAIMS

1. For use with a marine terminal crane to transfer a loaded container to a ship alongside of a dockside pier, a platform onto which the container is transported by a motorized vehicle to the pier in underlying relation to the crane; said platform comprising: table means for reception of the vehicle with the container thereon in underlying relation to the crane at the pier; positioning means for displacement of the table means relative to the crane; and sensing means locationally detecting movement of the container relative to the crane for directionally controlling said displacement of the table means with the container thereon into operative alignment to effect transfer of the container by the crane from the platform to the ship.
2. The platform as defined in claim 1, including: a wheeled frame on which the table means is mounted; and ramp means hingedly connected to the frame for drive on of the vehicle with the container and departure with the container unloaded therefrom.
3. The platform as defined in claim 2, wherein said positioning means includes: pairs of ball screw drive devices connected to the table means for imparting said displacement thereto in 90° related directions.
4. The platform as defined in claim 3, wherein said sensing means includes: laterally spaced pairs of support plates fixed to the wheeled frame; and sensor elements mounted on said plates and interconnected to form a sensing grid operatively connected to the ball screw drive devices through which detection of said movement of the container is effected.

5. The platform as defined in claim 1, wherein said sensing means includes: laterally spaced pairs of support plates; and sensor elements mounted on said plates and interconnected to form a sensing grid through which detection of said movement of the container is effected.

6. The platform as defined in claim 1, wherein said positioning means includes: pairs of ball screw drive devices connected to the table means for imparting said displacement thereto in 90° related directions.

7. The platform as defined in claim 6, wherein said sensing means includes: laterally spaced pairs of support plates; and sensor elements mounted on said plates and interconnected to form a sensing grid connected to the ball screw drive devices through which detection of said movement of the container is effected.